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LETTER

TO A

Friend in the Country,

CONCERNING

Mr. BUDGELL.

AND HIS

Late COMPLAINT

Against the

RIGHT HONOURABLE

A N D

Most Noble

Sir ROBERT WALPOLE.

The SECOND EDITION.

Prov. xviii. 11. *The Rich Man's Wealth is his Strong City, and as a high Wall in his own Conceit.*

LONDON: Printed by T. REYNOLDS, 1730. (Price 4 s.)





A

LETTER, &c.

S I R,



FLATTER my self you are so well convinc'd of my Readiness to obey what Commands you honour me with, that you will attribute the Delay of answering yours to the true Cause, a Desire of giving you a Satisfactory Account of Mr. *Budgell's* Affair; this, his own Letter to the *Craftsman* (enclos'd) will do better than I possibly could from the most particular Informations.

You say the Affair is differently reported in the Country; and the Sentiments of your neighbouring Gentlemen diametri-

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cally

cally opposite : Some extolling the Action, as worthy the old *English* Spirit ; and others stigmatizing it, as the wild Sally of a disorder'd Head : I find you are inclin'd to give your Judgment with the latter, and take the Character given of the Gentleman in Question, by the *St. James's Evening-Post*, to be impartial. Indeed there are four Premisses from which the Conclusion you make of *Mr. Budgell's* being a Lunatick, may naturally flow : For, one would imagine in this degenerate Age, among the Sons of *Iffachar*, that no Man in his Senses, and in this unfortunate Gentleman's Circumstances, would alone, I mean without other Support, than the Resolution of a true Patriot, make Head against a premier Minister, so greatly distinguish'd and supported by the royal Favour, and dare to accuse him to his Master, not in general Terms, but even lay particular Facts to his Charge, and offer to make good, on the Forfeiture of his Life, what he had alledged.

This is the first of the above Premisses ; the second is the Saying of *Solomon*, (grounded either on Experience, or dictated from divine Inspiration) *Oppression will make a wise Man mad.* And this Maxim contains the two latter Reasons,

as



as Mr. *Budgell's* Character, and the Pressures he has labour'd under, are not unknown. So that I cannot greatly blame your giving Credit to the unbecoming Character the *St. James's Evening Post* has endeavour'd to fix on a Gentleman who holds one of the first Ranks among the *Literati*; in whose Writings the Gentleman and Scholar shine with equal Lustre; and who has been happy enough in all his Productions to hit upon the Art of concealing Art: For nothing in his Compositions seems labour'd, and they appear to have dropp'd with the greatest Ease from his Pen. But whatever Figure he may make in the *Belles Lettres*, I think this Action greatly raises his Character, makes every true *Englishman* his Debtor, and sets Mr. *Budgell*, the *Patriot*, as much above Mr. *Budgell*, the *polite Author*, as the Heroe, who is lavish of his Blood for the Common weal, is above the Poet who records his Actions.

If he proves, that any false Measures have been taken by the *Great Man* he has had the Courage to attack, certainly he who will risque his Life to free his Country from Oppression, ought to be dear to every Individual of the Society: And doubtless, the Memory of *Otho*, who shed his own, to save the Effusion of the Blood
of

of his Citizens, must have been as dear to the *Romans*, as it appears glorious to Posterity.

History affords us a great many Examples of this publick Spirit among the Ancients, which I need not quote to you who are so conversant with their Writings: But this publick Zeal is so little practised, or indeed known among us, that it's no Wonder Mr. *Budgell* should have his *Reason* called in question, for endeavouring to revive Love of the Publick, and copy after the ancient Maxims of the *Romans*; one of which was, (as *Valerius Maximus* tells us) that *to be poor in a rich State, was preferable to being rich in a poor one*: Which, as I take it, is as contrary both to the Opinion and Practice of our Days, as Light is to Darknes.

You desire I will send the Speech Mr. *Budgell* made to his Majesty, and the Contents of the Petition; I enclose the former as I have by Accident a printed one by me, and the Book you will receive with this, will convince you I can't comply with the latter of your Commands. You also desire I will give you Mr. *Budgell's* Character, as you do me the Honour to think me impartial. In Answer to this, I must acquaint you, that I never had the Happiness of being
more

more than once in that Gentleman's Company ; by what I could then remark, join'd to this brave, nay, I may say, glorious Instance of a publick Spirit, he is so far from being wounded in his Understanding, that he is an edifying and entertaining Companion ; a Lover of his Country ; and a thoro' *Englishman* : In a Word, he is what his Works speak him.

Whatever the Facts are with which he charges Sir *R. W.* they must be either true or false ; if true, and that they tend either to the oppressing of the Subject, or the curtailing our Liberties ; the aggrandizing of himself by the impoverishing of the Publick ; or whatever other Reasons gave Ground to the Complaints, no one can doubt his Majesty's Justice in a speedy Redress. If they are false, I will subscribe to the Character given Mr. *Budgell* by the *St. James's Evening Post*, which I cannot do (as Belief is not to be forced) till he is call'd upon, and fails in making good his Charge against the *Great Man*, by the clearest and most convincing Proofs : And if that is done, we must acknowledge the Redress of the Grievances made out, are entirely owing to the publick Spirit of this Pseudo-Lunatick.

It's

It's probable enough, that * *Dona Guevara*, when she accus'd the *Conde D'Olivarez*, to *Philip IV.* was, by the *Conde's* Faction, represented as a mad Woman; but, notwithstanding the Weakness of the Instrument, the future happy State of the *Spanish* Monarchy, by the Disgrace of the *Conde*, and the filling all the great Offices of the Kingdom with Men of Probity, Birth, and publick Spirit, was owing to this Lady's Concern for the Commonweal; which gave her Courage to tell the King Truths, which (however essential to the Kingdom) had industriously been conceal'd from him, and which the bravest about his Court had not the Resolution to deliver; so terrible was the Power of the *Spanish Great Man!*

It's a trite Saying, that Kings hear and see with the Organs of their Favourites; and such will take Care to bar the Passage to any Report which may prove to their own Prejudices; consequently, a Sovereign, so besieged, may be the only Stranger in a Nation, to the Miseries it labours under. Hope or Fear (where a Minister has Power, like that of *Olivarez*) will seal up the Mouths of those who depend on a Court, and

(*) See The History of the Fall of Count *Olivarez*, sold as the Peacock without Temple-bar.

are about the Royal Person; and it's very rare, that we find a *Dona Guevara*, or a BUDGEEL, who has so much the Honour of his King, and the Interest of his Country at Heart, as to risque the heavy Resentment of an incens'd and powerful Minister.

As you may not perhaps be acquainted with this Piece of History, which I have now before me, I flatter myself you will think it no useless Digression, if I give you a short Account of the State of the *Spanish* Monarchy under the Oppressive Administration of Count *Olivarez*, which was felt so severely by every Subject, and known to the whole World, but the King himself.

“ After the *Spanish* Monarchy had been
 “ dismember'd of the Kingdoms of *Ormuz*,
 “ *Goa*, *Fernambuco*, and all the adjacent Coun-
 “ tries of that vast extended Coast in the *East-*
 “ *Indies*; had lost *Brazil*, and the Islands of
 “ *Terceras*; the Kingdom of *Portugal*; the
 “ Principality of *Catalonia*; the County of
 “ *Roussillon*; all *Burgundy*, *Dole*, *Bisancon* ex-
 “ cepted; *Esdin* and *Arras* in *Flanders*; many
 “ Towns in *Luxemburg*, *Brisac* in *Alsace*, and
 “ likewise saw the Kingdoms of *Naples* and
 “ *Sicily*, with the Dutchy of *Milan*, in a di-
 “ stracted Condition: After having lost in
 “ the Ocean and Mediterranean Seas, 200
 “ Sail of Ships, and the Subjects, Clergy as
 B “ well

" well as Laity, drain'd off 216 Millions of
 " Gold by Donations and Taxes of the Count's
 " inventing, Part of which immense Sum was
 " expended on Armies ever defeated, and Fleets
 " dispers'd and scatter'd, and Part unjustly sunk
 " in the Purses of publick Robbers, Governours,
 " Generals, and other Ministers, his Creatures,
 " either by Consanguinity, or a servile De-
 " pendance.

" After all these Oppressions and Losses, 'tis
 " no wonder, if the harass'd People ardently
 " wish'd to see their Calamities redress'd; by
 " his Ruine, who had been the Author of
 " them; the Glory of the Empire rais'd by
 " his Fall! the King honour'd by his Disgrace!
 " and Tyranny fetch her last Gasp in a Total
 " Reform of Government. For it seem'd as if
 " Nature it self, relenting at such Variety of
 " Misfortune, had resolv'd to put an End to
 " those extravagant Abuses.

" By a Turn therefore of Providence, which
 " ever has a compassionate Regard to the Di-
 " stressed, a Chain of lucky Incidents seem'd
 " to concur in the Discovery of these Abuses, at
 " a Time when the Kingdom was reduced to
 " the lowest Ebb.

" The Favourite having receiv'd one Shock
 " from the Interest of the Queen, it pleas'd
 " Providence to join the Simplicity of a com-
 " mon Gentlewoman, *Dona Anna Guevara*,
 " to compleat his Ruin. She had suckled the
 " King, and was recommended to that ho-
 " nourable Employ by the Duke of *Lerma*,
 " and till the Count came into so great Favour,
 " was always esteem'd and respected at Court,

" as

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“ as his Majesty's Foster-Mother. But then,
“ all Favours flowing thro' the corrupt *Canals*
“ of the Count, and the Ladies having much
“ more Regard for the Countess's Nod, than
“ the Queen's Commands; as all who were of
“ the Duke of *Lerma's* Party were suspected
“ as Opposers of the Count's Interest, this
“ Lady, on Account of the Tenderness his
“ Majesty express'd for her, was look'd upon
“ as the most dangerous to do them Prejudice
“ with the King. They contriv'd to have her
“ removed from Court with an honourable Pre-
“ tence; but she however often visited the
“ Queen, whose Apartment was always open
“ to her, and where the King sometimes saw
“ her, and did her the Honour to entertain her
“ in particular. One Day, about Three of
“ the Clock in the Afternoon, the Time his
“ Majesty usually visited the Queen in her
“ Apartment, she plac'd her self in the Way,
“ that she might have Opportunity to speak
“ to the King, alone; but she took her Stand
“ so near to the Queen's Chamber, that her
“ Majesty might distinctly hear all that pass'd.
“ Then throwing her self at the King's Feet,
“ she protested she came not to beg any Favour
“ for herself; that she had no Interest but in
“ common with the rest of his Majesty's good
“ Subjects; but being prompted, as it were, by
“ a maternal Affection, she came to reveal to his
“ Majesty what perhaps none else, in Regard
“ to their private Interest, would dare to at-
“ tempt. Upon this, having Leave from the
“ King to speak her Mind with Freedom, she
“ gave him a lively Description of the Oppressi-

“ *ons of his People, the Abuses in his Revenue,*
 “ the Loss of Towns and Provinces, and all
 “ the Disorders in his Empire: Adding, that
 “ his Majesty ought to look upon those Afflictions
 “ as the Judgments of God; which he had
 “ brought upon himself, by leaving to another
 “ the Government of those Kingdoms, which
 “ God and Nature had committed to his
 “ Charge, to the Dishonour of his Royal Dignity,
 “ the Grief of his Nobles (whose Hearts
 “ he had alienated by subjecting them to an
 “ *Equal*) and forcing them from Court, where
 “ *Corruption* was so flagrant, that the *Ability to*
 “ *purchase*, not the *Capacity to discharge*, Places
 “ of Trust, was the only Question; by which
 “ Means, Persons of Rank were deprived of
 “ their Birth-right, and his Majesty of faithful
 “ and able Ministers. That the smallest Office
 “ was put to Sale, either by the *Minister* or his
 “ *Creatures*; which occasioned intolerable Exactions,
 “ and was an insupportable Burthen
 “ upon the People, who had no Hopes of Relief,
 “ but from his Majesty's exerting himself,
 “ and doing Justice to his Subjects, by
 “ asserting his Royal Dignity. That it was
 “ now Time his Majesty should be *Out of Ward*,
 “ and not farther provoke the Anger of the
 “ Almighty, by suffering his People to continue
 “ longer under the *Tyranny* of a *Fellow-Subject*,
 “ who multiplied their Oppressions to
 “ *swell his own Fortune*, and *aggrandized his*
 “ *Family* by the *Destruction of the Kingdom*.
 “ That he ought to take Compassion on his
 “ own Son, the Heir apparent to his Dominions,
 “ who, if not timely prevented, would
 “ be

“ be forc’d to retire with the Fortune of a
 “ private man. She concluded with protest-
 “ ing, That if the Freedom of that Remon-
 “ strance had offended his Majesty, she was ready
 “ and willing to undergo any Punishment; as
 “ she had once nourish’d him *with her Milk*, she
 “ would now think it an equal Happiness, *by her*
 “ *Blood*, to preserve to him his Kingdom.

Commodus was kept a Stranger to the
 Affairs of *Rome*, by the Artifice of his
 Favourite, *Cleander*, a *Phrygian* Slave;
 who, as *Herodian* says, was troubled with
 an insatiable *Thirst of Riches*; one of the
 Reasons, if not the principal, of his
 abusing the Power he was possess’d of,
 and bringing upon him the Hatred of
 the People, *perosi hominem divitiis inexpl-*
abilem; for it’s impossible for a covetous
 or an ambitious Man to prefer the pub-
 lick to his private Interest; and where
 the former is made subservient to the lat-
 ter, the Hatred of the People stirr’d up
 by Oppression, is a natural Consequence.
 This same *Cleander* is a flagrant Instance
 of how small Account *even* the Life of the
 Subject is, when put in Competition with
 the Safety of a wicked Minister, and the
 Impression the Power of such a one makes
 upon the Minds of the People: “ For
 “ the Plague and Famine raging both at
 “ once in *Rome*, the Citizens, who attri-
 “ buted the Cause of these Afflictions to
 the

“ the AUKWARD and AVARITIOUS
 “ Administration of *Cleander*, who had
 “ great Quantities of Corn in his Gra-
 “ naries (to an End different from what
 “ the People imagin’d, for, says the Hi-
 “ storian, *Divitiæ & luxus etiam illum*
 “ *ad Imperii spem instigabant*) came un-
 “ arm’d, but in a tumultuous Manner,
 “ to demand Justice on the Author of
 “ their Miseries: *Commodus ipse quæ ge-*
 “ *rerentur inscius (nam id Cleander cave-*
 “ *rat)* the Emperor, by *Cleander’s* Ma-
 “ nagement, being ignorant of what had
 “ pass’d, on a sudden, a Number of
 “ Horsemen, by Order of the Minister,
 “ *eruperunt*, pour’d forth of the Palace on
 “ the unarm’d People, of which a great
 “ Number were put to the Sword, ma-
 “ ny trampled to Death by the Horses,
 “ and the rest pursued with great Slaugh-
 “ ter into the City Gates. Those who
 “ were in the City immediately barr’d
 “ their Doors, and betook themselves to
 “ the Roofs and Windows of the Houses;
 “ from whence they shew’d a Tempest
 “ of Stones, Tyles, and Darts, on the
 “ Troops enter’d in the Pursuit; so that
 “ a terrible Slaughter ensued on both
 “ Sides: The Foot, who were quarter’d
 “ in the City, took Part with the Citi-
 “ zens, and a civil War was begun, the
 “ Empe-

“ Emperor all this Time knowing no-
 “ thing of the Uproar. None durst ac-
 “ quaint him with it, as all apprehended
 “ the *Power* of the *Favourite*. The Em-
 “ peror’s Sister, at length, with her Hair
 “ dishevel’d, and in Mourning, threw
 “ her self at his Feet, and in a very pa-
 “ thetick Speech (which you may read
 “ in the First Book of *Herodian’s* Lives
 “ of the *Roman* Emperors) shew’d him
 “ the imminent Danger which threaten’d
 “ the Royal Family; and gave him to
 “ understand, that he had no other
 “ Choice but that of giving up, or fall-
 “ ing with his *first Minister*. The Em-
 “ peror, by cutting off the Head of his
 “ Favourite, and exposing it to the Peo-
 “ ple, fix’d upon a Pole, appeas’d the
 “ Tumult.

It is certain, by the wise and happy
 Constitution of our Country, and the
 Prudence of our present Sovereign, no
 Minister can have the immediate Power
 to support his *Villainies* or his **Blunders**
 by Force of Arms; yet it’s possible, that
 a wicked Minister may hereafter, by brib-
 ing such as are mean enough to put on
 Fetters, if golden ones, involve his Prince
 and Country in Evils scarce to be redress’d.
 I allow, by the Maxim of our Law, the
 King can do no Wrong; and that his Mi-
 nister

nister is accountable for the false Steps which are taken : But if some future King of *England* should be weak enough to Father the Cruelties and Oppressions of his Minister, by *Screening* him from the Resentments of an injur'd People ; or if such a one should find the Means to purchase a Parliament who will follow Directions ; this Constitution, happy and fenced as it is, must give way to despotick Power ; the Prince give up his Minister, however loath ; or (as was the Fate of *Edward II.*) force his Subjects to throw off their Allegiance of which we have a recent Example in King *James II.* who personally suffer'd (notwithstanding our receiv'd Maxim) for acting despotically, dispensing with Laws by his own Prerogative in the Ecclesiastical Court, and endeavouring to subvert the Constitution.

But the Wisdom and Justice of the present King secures us against all Apprehensions of this Nature ; the Goodness with which he gave Attention to Mr. *Budgell*, speaks his Majesty the common Father of his Country ; and that glorious Act against *Bribery*, if not *eluded*, will, I hope, fill our Parliaments with disinterested and worthy Patriots, whose *Necessities* won't oblige them to prostitute their Consciences, and for a *Post* or *Pension*, (betraying the great
Trust

Trust repos'd in 'em) sell themselves and Posterity. Such, in a Word, as wou'd make no Scruple to take the Substance of this Oath, which every Senator of *Rome* took.

The Oath taken by the Roman Senators.

JURO per Jovem Olympium & consiliarium, & per Vestam consultricem, & per Junonem maritalem, & Minervam providam, & Victoriā, & Venerem, & Amicitiam, & Concordiam, & Jus atque Fas, & bonam Fortunam, aliosque universos Deos ac Deas, me sententiam velle dicere, secundum leges & consulta a Civitate approbata, & secundum decreta Romanorum & leges quibus Respublica nostra administratur in respectu utilitatis Patriæ pro viribus meis, non aliter quam * is fecit qui Senator laudatissimus, patriæ suæ vel Romanæ vel Græcæ Civitatis: Neque gratiæ, neque odio, neque muneribus patiar servire Judicium consultumve

* Here some noted Patriot was nam'd.

C

meum,

meum, neque privato addicam Sententiam meam, neque me ulli Patri aut homini adjungam, sed tantum communi utilitati, aucturus pro viribus Rempublicam, Ita ut Dii & Boni Viri volunt. Mihi quidem sancte Furato beneficit, & Dii atque Dæmones itemque meis omnibus, cum Amicis, tum universo generi & familiæ. In perjurio vero ne deprehendar unquam.

In English thus:

I Swear by the Counsel-giving and Olympick Jove, by the inspiring *Vesta*, by Matrimonial *Juno*, by the prudent *Minerva*, by *Victory*, *Venus*, *Friendship* and *Concord*, by all that's Just and Lawful, by *Good Fortune*, and by all the other Gods and Goddesses, that I will deliver my Opinion according to the Laws and Statutes approv'd by the City, and according to the Decrees and **Laws of the Romans**, by which our
Common-

Commonwealth is govern'd, with a View, to the utmost of my Power, to the Advantage of the Country. As did the most worthy (and no otherwise) N. Patriot of his Country, whether of a *Grecian* or a *Roman* City; neither will I give my Vote or Opinion for Favour, for Hatred, or Reward; neither will I be influenced by any private Person, or join my self to the Faction of any particular Man or Senator, but I will stick entirely to the Good of the Commonweal, and use my Endeavours, to the utmost, to add to the Grandeur of the Republick, according to the Will of the Gods, and the Expectation of all honest Men. So, and no otherways, may the Gods and Demi-Gods be propitious to me and all that belongs to me, my Friends, Family, and whole Posterity; and may I never be guilty of Perjury.

I be-

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I believe you will, by this, be content to see a Conclusion of this long Epistle, which I shall put an End to, that I may no longer detain you from the Pleasure you'll find in Mr. *Budgell's* Letter to the *Craftsman*, in which the Style, and fine Strokes of Raillery, will make you easily discover one of the Authors of the old *Spectators*.

I am, S I R, &c.



F I N I S.



content
pistle,
I may
measure
to the
d fine
easily
e old